

1                   **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b)**  
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3                   A method and apparatus for controlling set-top box hardware and software  
4 functions. An HTTP microserver is used to intercept HTTP requests for access to  
5 local devices and software. When the HTTP microserver receives a URL from the  
6 TCP/IP network stack, it directs instructions to an appropriate interface module that  
7 in turn generates an API call for an appropriate middleware module. The  
8 middleware module may then appropriately control a lower level software module  
9 to effect a software function or to drive hardware.  
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TOP SECRET